

a communication interface which attaches the expansion module to the expansion slot; the expansion slot providing access to the handheld computing device's microcontroller's address and data space;

memory operatively connected to the communication interface and which stores control software and image data, the microcontroller decoding the image data before the image data is forwarded to the expansion module via the expansion slot; and

a display controller operatively coupled to the memory and which converts the decoded image data to signals and is connectable to an external display device.

2. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC).

3. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a field programmable gate array (FPGA).

4. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the communication interface converts the image data decoded by the microcontroller to a format of the display controller.

5. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 4, wherein the communication interface is a multiplexor.

6. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the expansion slot is a Springboard connector.

7. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the memory which stores control software and image data is flash ROM.

8. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 7, wherein when the expansion module is attached to the handheld computing device, the flash ROM is recognized as an extension of the handheld computing device system memory.

9. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the external display controller is configured to query the external display device for display requirements and to convert decoded image data to electronic signals that match the display requirements.

10. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the display controller includes a memory buffer for temporarily storing decoded image data.

11. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein the handheld computing device communicates with the expansion module wirelessly.

12. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising an external memory interface for an external memory to attach to the expansion module.

13. The expansion module of claim 12, wherein the external memory interface is a flash memory connector.

14. The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising an audio interface for connecting to an audio device.

15. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising a graphic transmitter for converting parallel digital output generated by the display controller to serial digital output.

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16. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller for decoding the image data.

17. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising a connector to a power source.

18. The expansion module of claim 17, wherein the power source is an AC outlet.

19. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 17, wherein the power source is a line from the external display device.

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20. (Amended) The expansion module of claim 1, wherein execution of the control software is remotely controlled.

21. (Amended) A method for loading a presentation on a handheld computing device, comprising:

writing image data to a driver;

invoking the driver to compress the image data;

invoking the driver to store the compressed image data in a presentation database;

executing control software to transfer the presentation database to the handheld computing device; and

attaching an expansion module to the handheld computing device for displaying the presentation data on an external display.

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22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, the handheld computing device having a first memory, and the expansion module having a second memory.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the presentation database is transferred to the first memory.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the presentation database is transferred to the second memory, wherein the second memory is an extension of said first memory.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the control software is in the first memory.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the control software is in the second memory.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the control software is executed in the handheld computing device.

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28. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the control software is executed in the expansion module.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
decoding the image data included in the presentation database and forwarding it to the expansion module.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
converting the decoded image data to signals for delivery to an external display device.

31. (Amended) A method for controlling and displaying presentations stored in a handheld computing system on an external display using an expansion module, the method comprising:

executing control software stored in the handheld computing system;
displaying a control interface on the handheld computing system;
processing presentation data stored in the handheld computing system, in response to user interaction with the control interface;
forwarding the processed presentation data to a display controller of the expansion module; and
converting the presentation data to signals for rendering images on the external display by the display controller.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the handheld computing system comprises a handheld computing device and an expansion module attached to the handheld

computing device; the expansion module providing communication between the handheld computing device and the external display device.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein a microcontroller for executing the control software is included in the handheld computing device.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the microcontroller for executing the control software is included in the expansion module.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein the control interface displays a reference to one or more presentation databases such that in response to a user selecting a presentation database, one or more slides are displayed.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising:
selecting one or more of the displayed slides to be included in a slide show for display on an external display.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
rearranging a display order of slides in the slide show by moving a box representing a slide in a first display position to a second display position.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
setting the length of the slide show by interacting with a menu provided by the control interface.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
starting a slide show by interacting with the control interface.

40. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
promoting the display of a slide in the slide show by interacting with the control interface.

41. (Amended) A method of loading program code from memory in a handheld computing system onto memory associated with a microcontroller in an expansion module; a communication interface connecting the expansion module and the handheld computing system, the communication interface having a register, the method comprising:

the microcontroller initiating a read from the register;

the communication interface signaling a wait to the microcontroller;

the communication interface submitting a request to receive the program code from the handheld computing system;

the handheld computing system fetching the program code from the memory in the handheld computer system;

embedding the fetched program code in an instruction;

forwarding the instruction to the communication interface;

storing the instruction in the register; and

transferring the instruction to the memory in the expansion module.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
the communication interface releasing the wait signal; and

the microcontroller processing the instruction stored in the register to determine how to handle the program code embedded in the instruction.

43. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the instruction includes a function, the program code, and a memory address in the memory in the expansion module, the method further comprising:

if the function is a load function then storing the program code in the memory address; and

if the function is a jump function then executing the program code stored in the memory in the expansion module starting at the memory address.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the microcontroller executes the program code stored in the memory in the expansion module, further comprising:

the microcontroller initiating a read from the register;

the communication interface signaling a wait to the microcontroller;

the communication interface submitting a request to receive data from the handheld computing system;

the handheld computing system fetching data from the memory in the handheld computer system;

embedding the fetched data in an instruction;

forwarding the instruction to the communication interface; and

storing the instruction in the register.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

the communication interface releasing the wait signal; and

the program code executed by the microcontroller decoding the data.

46. The expansion module of claim 1, further comprising a switch for turning the expansion module on or off.

47. (Amended) A method for displaying a presentation on a display device, comprising:

creating image data using presentation software;

compressing the image data;

storing the compressed image data in a presentation database on a computer;

executing a first control software on the computer to transfer the presentation database to a first handheld computing device; and

executing a second control software running on the first handheld computing device to transfer the presentation database to a second handheld computing device which processes the image data included in the presentation database and displays the image data on a display device external to the second handheld computing device.

Please add new Claim 48 as follows:

48. A method for loading a presentation on a handheld computing device, comprising:

writing image data to a driver, the driver including data compression and presentation organizer software;

invoking the compression software to compress image data;

invoking the organizer software to store the compressed image data in a presentation database; and

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executing control software to transfer the presentation database to the handheld computing device;

wherein the handheld computing device is attached to an expansion module for displaying the presentation data on an external display, the handheld computing system having a first memory, and the expansion module having a second memory.

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